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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/549,337	09/13/2005	Diana Hodgins	GIL.P.US0042	6721

7590 03/02/2007
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EXAMINER

KWOK, HELEN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2856

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/02/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/549,337	Applicant(s) HODGINS ET AL.	
	Examiner Helen C. Kwok	Art Unit 2856	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-19 are objected to because of the following informalities. Appropriate correction is required.

In claim 1, line 5, the phrase "sensing mass" should be changed to – sensing beam – to provide antecedent basis for this elements in later claims.

In claim 13, line 2, the phrase "a first and a second mass" should be changed to – the first and the second mass --. In lines 3-4, the phrase "the two masses" should be changed to – the first and second masses --.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-11 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,186,053 (Egley et al.).

With regards to claims 1-11 and 19, Egley et al. discloses an accelerometer comprising, as illustrated in Figures 1-6, a semiconductor material wafer to provide a frame 56 defining an opening 58; a sensing mass 60 disposed within the opening; a pair of aligned pivot beams 61 interconnecting the frame and the mass; at least one

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relatively long sensing beam 54 (i.e. piezoelectric material or metallic components to determine a change in electrical characteristics) wherein the pair of aligned pivot beams defines a pivot axis 62 so that the mass when subjected to acceleration is constrained by the pivot beams for performing only rotational pivoting movements about the pivot axis and the sensing beam is arranged such that pivoting movement of the mass about the pivot axis distorts the sensing beam. (See, column 1, lines 11-64; column 3, line 65 to column 4, line 66).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,186,053 (Egley et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 5,959,209 (Takeuchi et al.).

With regards to claims 12-18, Egley et al. does not disclose having multiple accelerometers (i.e. a second and third accelerometers) having similar characteristics as the first accelerometer as claimed wherein the second and third accelerometers detect pivot movements in orthogonal directions from the direction of the first accelerometer. Takeuchi et al. discloses an accelerometer unit comprising, as illustrated in Figures 1(a)-35(b), a plurality of accelerometers capable of detecting

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acceleration along 3 axes (i.e. x-, y-, z-axis) formed on a single semiconductor wafer. (See, column 6, line 9 to column 8, line 55). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to have readily recognize the advantages and desirability of employing a plurality of accelerometers on the same semiconductor wafer as suggested by Takeuchi et al. in using the accelerometer as taught by Egley et al. to provide a technique of increasing detection accuracy while maintaining high sensitivity and to provide a more economical and compact device. (See, column 2, line 48 to column 4, line 41). Furthermore, this is a mere design expedient where one can duplicate parts for multiplied effect, namely to measure the acceleration in 3 orthogonal directions. (NOTE: St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co., Inc., 193 USPQ 8, 11 (7th cir. 1977)).

Response to Amendment

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

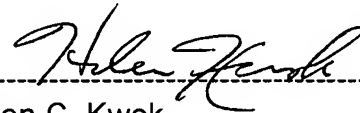
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helen C. Kwok whose telephone number is (571) 272-2197. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron E. Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Helen Kwok", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Helen C. Kwok
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hck
February 21, 2007